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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,788	07/30/2003	Jean Taylor	0573-1004-1	9395
466 7590 02/03/2011 YOUNG & THOMPSON 209 Madison Street Suite 500 Alexandria, VA 22314			EXAMINER PHILOGENE, PEDRO	
			ART UNIT 3733	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 02/03/2011	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

DocketingDept@young-thompson.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/629,788

Applicant(s)

TAYLOR ET AL.

Examiner

Pedro Philogene

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13, 16-20, 23, 24 and 26-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-20, 23, 24, 25-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 16-20, 23, 24, 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 251 as being an improper recapture of broadened claimed subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent upon which the present reissue is based. See *Pannu v. Storz Instruments Inc.*, 258 F.3d 1366, 59 USPQ2d 1597 (Fed. Cir. 2001); *Hester Industries, Inc. v. Stein, Inc.*, 142 F.3d 1472, 46 USPQ2d 1641 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Clement*, 131 F.3d 1464, 45 USPQ2d 1161 (Fed. Cir. 1997); *Ball Corp. v. United States*, 729 F.2d 1429, 1436, 221 USPQ 289, 295 (Fed. Cir. 1984). A broadening aspect is present in the reissue which was not present in the application for patent. The record of the application for the patent shows that the broadening aspect (in the reissue) relates to claim subject matter that applicant previously surrendered during the prosecution of the application. Accordingly, the narrow scope of the claims in the patent was not an error within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 251, and the broader scope of claim subject matter surrendered in the application for the patent cannot be recaptured by the filing of the present reissue application.

The limitation omitted in the reissue application claims was added in the original application (at least to claim 25) for the purpose of making the original application claims allowable over a rejection made in the original application. In the rejection mailed on 11/16/00 in the original application (09/445,176), the examiner rejected claim 25 and its dependents over art. In the amendment filed 2/2/01, applicant amended claims 25 by adding the limitations of allowable claim 1 in claim 25 to overcome the rejection. The examiner then allowed the claims. The subsequent deletion of these limitations in the

reissue claims 16-20, 23, 24, 31-35 would be presumed to be a broadening in aspect of the reissue claims related to surrender subject matter. Accordingly, the reissued claims would be barred by the recapture doctrine.

Although applicant is claiming a "means-plus function" in claim 16, there is no mention of at least one member for longitudinal connecting the bone anchoring elements, the shackles. There is no mention of the ball and an exterior surface of the head have respective centers of rotation which are separated by a distance, giving the device, when tightened using the tightening element by bearing against the exterior surface of the head for grasping a function of returning the bone-anchoring element by transverse force, as claimed in at least claim 1 of the original application.

In claim 29, there is no mention of at least the ball and an exterior surface of the head have respective centers of rotation which are separated by a distance, giving the device, when tightened using the tightening element by bearing against the exterior surface of the head for grasping a function of returning the bone-anchoring element by transverse force, as claimed in at least claim 1 of the original application.

In claim 30, there is no mention of at least a tightening element which can be fitted onto this shank to immobilize the assembly comprising the connector shackle, the longitudinal connecting member and the corresponding bone-anchoring element, a function of returning the bone-anchoring element by transverse force, as claimed in at least claim 1 of the original application.

All these limitations omitted in the reissue claims were added in the original application claim 25 for the purpose of making the application claims allowable over a

rejection made in the application 09/445,176. The nature of the additions to claim 25 can show that the limitations were added to obviate the rejection.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 12/02/09 and 11/30/10 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As to the priority, 112th first paragraph, and the 102 rejection in office action of 7/15/09, the examiner agrees with applicant and the rejections are withdrawn.

However, as to the recapture rejection the applicant's arguments are not persuasive (see action above). Applicant stated that he was not clear whether the examiner referred to claim 25 of the reissue application or the claim 25 of the original application and the Office Action fails to indicate when and how such limitation was added to overcome a rejection. In addition, applicant stated the rejection appears to make reference to amendments made during prosecution of the application that resulted in the original patent, but includes none of the detailed analysis that must accompany a rejection under reissue. The examiner made many attempts to contact applicant to resolve this matter without reopening prosecution in the case. However, after many conversations, applicant asked the examiner to reopen prosecution and resend an action to applicant. Since this rejection was presented in the last office action and applicant did not respond to the rejection, this action is, therefore, made final.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro Philogene whose telephone number is (571) 272-4716. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 6:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272 - 4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Pedro Philogene/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3733
January 30, 2011